CLAIMS

1. A battery charger for a cellular phone for use in a vehicle having a cigarette lighter receptacle, said charger comprising:

a housing having first and second ends, said first end of said housing being dimensioned for slip fit engagement into the cigarette lighter receptacle and includes electrical contacts for electrically communicating with complementary electrical contacts disposed within the cigarette lighter receptacle, said second end of said housing having an electrical conductor attached thereto that terminates in an electrical connector for connecting to the cellular phone;

a charger circuit disposed within said housing; said charger circuit in electrical communication with said electrical contacts of said housing and said electrical conductor;

a visual indicator circuit having at least one light source supported within said housing; and

an incoming call sensing circuit in electrical communication with said visual indicator circuit, said incoming call sensing circuit operative to detect an incoming call signal to said cellular phone and to produce an electrical signal in response to detecting said incoming call signal, said incoming call sensing circuit being further operative to communicate said electrical signal to said visual indicator circuit for causing said at least one light source to illuminate.

2. The battery charger of claim 1 wherein said at least one light source is a solid-state device.

3. The battery charger of claim 2 wherein said solid-state device is a light emitting diode.

4. The battery charger of claim 1 wherein said at least one light source flashes in response to receiving said electrical signal from said sensing circuit.

5. The battery charger of claim 1 wherein a portion of said housing is translucent and said at least one light source is disposed therein whereby said at least one light source is operative to illuminate through said translucent portion of said housing.

6. The battery charger of claim 1 comprising at least two light sources.

7. The battery charger of claim 6 wherein said at least two light sources emit different colors of illumination.

8. The battery charger of claim 1 further comprising a signal conditioning and activation circuit disposed between said incoming call circuit

and said visual indicator circuit operative to receive the incoming call signal and condition the incoming call signal for activating said visual indicator circuit.

9. The battery charger of claim 1 wherein said incoming call sensing circuit is disposed within the cellular phone.

10. The battery charger of claim 1 wherein the incoming call sensing circuit is disposed within said housing.

11. The battery charger of claim 1 further comprising a reset button disposed on said housing and in communication with said visual indicator circuit.

12. The battery charger of claim 11 wherein said visual indicator circuit is operative to cause said at least one light source to continue to illuminate after an incoming call signal has been detected until said visual indicator circuit has been reset.

13. A battery charger for a cellular phone for use in a vehicle having a cigarette lighter receptacle, said charger comprising:

a housing having first and second ends, said first end of said housing being dimensioned for slip fit engagement into the cigarette lighter receptacle

and includes electrical contacts for electrically communicating with complementary electrical contacts disposed within the cigarette lighter receptacle, said second end of said housing having an electrical conductor attached thereto that terminates in an electrical connector for connecting to the cellular phone;

a charger circuit disposed within said housing; said charger circuit in electrical communication with said electrical contacts of said housing and said electrical conductor;

a visual indicator circuit having at least one light source supported within said housing;

an incoming call sensing circuit in electrical communication with said visual indicator circuit, said incoming call sensing circuit operative to detect an incoming call signal to said cellular phone and to produce an electrical signal in response to detecting said incoming call signal, said incoming call sensing circuit being further operative to communicate said electrical signal to said visual indicator circuit for causing said at least one light source to illuminate wherein said visual indicator circuit is operative to cause said at least one light source to continue to illuminate after said incoming call signal has been detected until said visual indicator circuit has been reset; and

a reset button disposed on said housing and in communication with said visual indicator circuit, said reset button operative to cause said visual indicator circuit to be reset when pushed.

14. The battery charger of claim 13 wherein said at least one light source is a solid-state device.

15. The battery charger of claim 14 wherein said solid-state device is a light emitting diode.

16. The battery charger of claim 13 wherein said at least one light source flashes in response to receiving said electrical signal from said sensing circuit.